

Mullins, Diona (CHFS Health Policy)

From: Wayne Meriwether <wmeriwether@tlrmc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 3:15 PM
To: Mullins, Diona (CHFS Health Policy)
Subject: Comments Regarding Certificate of Need Modernization

Ms Mullins,

As the CEO of a rural hospital in Central Kentucky I want to express my support of our current CON program and the findings in the KHA study entitled, "Certificate of Need: Stabilizing Force for Health Care Transformation". A deregulation of the CON program would have an adverse affect on my hospital and others like mine that serve as "safety-net" hospitals. As the KHA study points out, "smaller, rural hospitals are more vulnerable to the loss of profitable patients to private organizations that would be developed without CON standards in place". The loss of higher margin patients from my payer mix will make it more difficult to fund unprofitable services that we provide to our community. Many rural hospitals around the state are already financially unstable. I am convinced that increased competition resulting from deregulation of the CON program would worsen this situation. If this were to happen, who then would meet the healthcare needs of those individuals that live in rural Kentucky?

I believe that all Kentuckians have the right to timely and high quality healthcare services and this right would be threatened by deregulation of the current CON program. Please count me as a supporter of the CON program and against any modernization that would result in deregulation.

Best regards,
Wayne Meriwether

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SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

October 8, 2014

*Certificate of Need Modernization: Core Principles
Request for Stakeholder Input*